



# NEWS RELEASE

## NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

United States Department of Agriculture • Washington, DC 20250

Ag Statistics Hotline: 1-800-727-9540 • [www.usda.gov/nass/](http://www.usda.gov/nass/)



---

Media Contact: Michelle Conn 1-800-691-9987

### FARM AND RANCH IRRIGATION SURVEY TO BE CONDUCTED

Washington, DC, December 15, 2003 – To gather reliable information about irrigated land, the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is conducting the 2003 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey during January and February 2004.

Approximately 25,000 of the Nation's irrigated farms and ranches are being asked to provide information on their irrigation practices, so every response is critical.

"USDA has an obligation to provide reliable data on farm and ranch irrigation and this survey gives NASS the information necessary to do that" said Don Gerhardt, Idaho's State Statistician. Gerhardt also stated that accurate and complete responses from farmers and ranchers will provide important information to help industry representatives, leaders, and planners chart the best course for the future of on-farm irrigation.

Farm and ranch operators selected to participate in this year's survey will receive a report form in late January 2004. "Every response is held strictly confidential by law (Title 7, U.S. Code)" said Don Grehardt "and is used only in combination with all other responses to produce State and national summarized totals." Results from this irrigation survey are scheduled for release in the Fall of 2004. According to the 1998 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey, 50 million acres were irrigated in 1998, compared to 46 million acres irrigated in 1994. What will the picture reveal for 2003?

Producers selected to participate in this survey will make an important contribution to the U.S. agricultural community. This survey gives participants an opportunity to show how they use water responsibly to produce an abundant food supply for America. Results from this survey will be used to develop irrigation practices that improve productivity for producers, their families, and their communities.

The 2003 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey is one way that NASS and producers work together to provide meaningful, accurate, and objective statistical information on irrigation.

All agricultural statistics published by NASS are available on this Web site at [www.usda.gov/nass/](http://www.usda.gov/nass/). For information on this survey or other NASS reports, call (800) 691-9987.

*Find agricultural statistics for your county, State, and the Nation at [www.usda.gov/nass/](http://www.usda.gov/nass/).*